June 8, 1979

Dear Harold,

Thanks for your letters. Here are two more "newsletters" (5/26, 6/2).

I still haven't seen anything in Guinn's testimony or report which raises questions in my mind about his integrity or competence. I can't say as much about the HSC questioning of him, since they failed to pursue a number of issues. It's certainly true that his 95% estimate is based on the assumption that the box from which Oswald got his 2 shells was as random in composition as the boxes Guinn got from Nichols. In fact, in his discussion afterward, Guinn talked about the production process, so he may well have looked into this matter enough to be confident that the original boxes had varied compositions. So, it's probably a good assumption, but it still is an assumption. (The fact that the fragments he tested came from two distinguishable sources indicates that Oswald's box was not of uniform composition.)

On the testing of jacket material - I am not aware of the basis for any belief that testing of the jacket material in this case could have proved anything. Frankly, I think he would have done it, if it had. I have a vague recollection of him saying that the jacket material is not homogeneous enough to be useful.

If the HSC volumes don't clear up these questions, I'll write Guinn. I don't expect to have the chance to give his stuff a careful critical reading before the report comes out, and I'll certainly be looking very carefully at the use they make of this analysis.

So far, I have no list of where various witnesses can be found in the volumes (except, of course, the table of contents of each). If I get such a list, I'll certainly pass it on. Likewise for any indexes.

I didn't read Gary Shaw's Soutre stuff carefully enough to form a firm opinion. My initial impression was that, while Souetre was interesting, the identification as QJWIN was very tenous - if you'll pardon the expression, there are many frogs in the pond. Since some of these documents went to the HSCA, I'll wait and see if they have anything to say about this matter.

With best regards,

Paul

PLH